



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
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December 8, 2008

United States Attorney Joe W. Stecher and the Drug Enforcement Administration announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

After a four day jury trial presided over by the Honorable Laurie Smith-Camp, United States District Judge, Jesus Ixta-Salazar was found guilty of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine and Being an Illegal Alien in Possession of a Firearm. Sentencing has been scheduled for March 9, 2009. Ixta faces a potential mandatory life sentence because of two previous felony drug convictions.

The facts at trial revealed that four cooperating witnesses had bought methamphetamine from Ixta dating back to August of 2005. The amounts ranged from 3.5 grams up to one pound quantities. Total amount of methamphetamine involved over 10 pounds. The transactions occurred at several different Omaha locations, including shops rented by the defendant.

Additionally, the evidence revealed that Omaha police stopped Ixta for speeding on August 8, 2005. Once stopped, he was handcuffed and searched. In his pocket was a \$20 bill folded into a square, containing .1 g of meth. There was also a meth pipe under the seat. On October 21, 2005, Omaha police stopped Ixta again, this time for fictitious plates. The vehicle was searched incident to arrest. Officers found a baggy containing 5.8 g of meth, about 75% pure. On Ixta's person was \$1,364 cash and a memo book containing apparent drug records.

On May 27, 2008, Bellevue police conducted a traffic stop on Ixta based on a disturbance call. An officer searched the car and found a loaded Ruger .45 pistol. After being Mirandized, Ixta said he bought the gun for protection. Officers determined that Ixta was in the country illegally.

Name of Defendant: Jesus Ixta-Salazar

AKA: "David"

AGE: 26

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is

presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine and Being an Illegal Alien in Possession of a Firearm. 10 years to life imprisonment, \$4,000,000 fine, 5 years supervised release, and \$100 Special Assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Omaha and Bellevue, Ne.

Location of Arrest: Omaha, Ne.

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: More than 10 pounds of Methamphetamine.

Others Charged in Same Scheme: N/A

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: August 0f 2005 through March of 2008

Federal Arrest Date: March of 2008

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: March of 2008

Initial Appearance Date: April 4, 2008

Plea Date(s): N/A

Sentencing Date: March 9, 2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: Thomas D. Thalken

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: In custody since initial arrest.

In Continuous Custody Since: N/A

Assigned District Court Judge: Laurie Smith Camp

Initials of Assigned SAUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: TJK